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SUBJECT: INSTRUCTIONS: JOIN CONSENSUS ON UN PLENARY  
RESOLUTION "HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN NATURAL DISASTERS"

REF: ATTACHED RESOLUTION KIDWELL-GAMBONE EMAIL 21  
JANUARY 2010 9:19PM

¶1. The Department authorizes USDEL to join consensus on the resolution entitled "International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development," provided that the resolution text does not change significantly from the wording contained in REF to negatively affect vital U.S. interests.

¶2. Additionally, the Department instructs USDEL deliver the following EOP:

"The United States remains deeply committed to working in close partnership with our fellow Member States and the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters around the world. We are working urgently with our international partners, nations around the world, NGOs, and the entire UN system to help the suffering people of Haiti recover from the current crisis and rebuild over the long term. We have also worked constructively with other delegations to craft this year's resolution on International Cooperation on Humanitarian Assistance in the Field of Natural Disasters, from Relief to Development to help provide timely and effective assistance to communities shaken by natural disasters in order to save lives and reduce suffering.

Our commitment to these goals is undimmed. We should note, however, that the text before us today unfortunately contains a controversial paragraph referencing international humanitarian law, which does not apply to situations of natural disasters. We should all seek to avoid politicising our humanitarian work together, and we regret this paragraph's inclusion."  
CLINTON